



The American Society of
Mechanical Engineers

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The Bay Connection

Newsletter of the San Francisco Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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Sixth Annual Joint Dinner Meeting San Francisco Section/ San Francisco State University

Marine-Based Satellite Launch Systems

Eduardo Ramirez

Maritime Support Team, Det Norske Veritas (DNV)

Wednesday, May 5, 1999 • 6:00 - 9:00 PM

256 Science Building • San Francisco State University

Want a novel way to put a satellite in orbit? Why not launch it from a ship in the middle of the ocean! Recently a successful test satellite was launched from a marine-based platform in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Eduardo Ramirez is part of the Maritime Support Team at Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Currently he is working on a project which involves launching satellites from ships stationed at the equator. Eduardo will discuss some of the engineering issues involved in launching a rocket from a ship, floating in the middle of the ocean. This novel concept takes advantage of the higher tangential velocities at the equator which results in reduced thrust to achieve escape velocity. The satellites can therefore carry a higher payload due to the weight savings.

Location: 256 Science Building
San Francisco State University Campus

Directions: See http://www.sfsu.edu/~pubaff/go_there/go_there.htm

Time: 6:00 PM Registration/Social Hour
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Presentation

Entrees: Dinner will be Italian Cuisine including: tossed green salad with tomato & avocado, garlic bread, bean salad, and lasagna.

Cost: \$15 Members
\$10 Students

**RSVP by Friday, April 30 to
SF ASME via email at: rsvp@sf.asme.org
at (415) 721-4478**

Include your name and number of attendees.

Map on Back Cover

Chair's Greeting

by Brandon Muramatsu

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This month's Greeting marks my final column as section chair. While it's a bit unusual for section chair to serve two consecutive terms, I've had a great time working with the executive committee to provide outstanding programs for the section. I'd like to thank the executive committee for all their hard work and support. In particular, Rich Myhre has provided invaluable advice and support. I hope that we've made some good progress over the last two years and have set the stage for our next section chair to continue to provide outstanding programs and activities.

We've worked hard over the last three years to improve the way we do business. In February, I provided an update on how we were reaching our goals of: (1) using information technologies to transform our communications processes; (2) examining section operations to better serve our membership; and (3) leveraging outside resources to provide you, our membership, with quality programs. This month I'm proud to announce that we're also addressing our biggest outstanding issue. Over the last few years you've heard us mention the need for new volunteers to work with the section. I'm proud to announce that members of the section have heard our call for volunteers and stepped forward.

Inside this issue of *The Bay Connection* you'll find our annual ballot. Please take a moment and vote for your section officers. In addition, we've piqued the interest of a couple more volunteers who have agreed to help arrange programs for the San Francisco section. We're always looking for more volunteers to get involved with the section. Contact us if you're interested!

This year you'll notice a couple of new names on the ballot. Candidate for Vice-chair is Manuchehr Shirmohamadi, Ph.D., P.E. Manuchehr is president of Material Integrity Solutions in Berkeley. He's no stranger to the San Francisco section, serving as dinner meeting speaker and recipient of a local ASME Industry Award.

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sf.asme.org Website Updated

Our section's website, sf.asme.org, has undergone a minor facelift in the last couple of months. Check our website for the most up to date information about events in the San Francisco section. We're also posting a version of our paper newsletter in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). So if you've misplaced your newsletter or need the map to find the current monthly activity you can download a copy of the paper edition of *The Bay Connection* on-line at sf.asme.org.



Small Business Report: March 1999

by Eric E. Worrell, P.E., Small Business Committee Chair
ASME Region IX and San Francisco Section

Editor's Note: The Small Business Report is on temporary hiatus.

Crab Feed Recap

by Erick Byrd, UC Berkeley

The 15th annual Crab Feed was held on Wednesday March 17, 1999 in the Lipman Ballroom of Barrows Hall, University of California at Berkeley. Over 110 people attended the joint meeting between the UC Berkeley ASME Student Section and San Francisco ASME Professional Section. Everyone enjoyed all-you-can-eat Dungenous Crab, the live jazz and salsa band, the spectacular view of the Bay Area, the company of fellow ASME members, and keynote speaker, Auren Hoffman. Also included in the attendees were Lynden Davis (ASME International Region IX Director), Brandon Muramatsu (San Francisco ASME Chair), Professor David Bogy (UC Berkeley Mechanical Engineering Department Chair), Professor Antoni Oppenheim, Professor Andrew Packard (UC Berkeley ASME Faculty Advisor), and Professor Ronald Yeung. The attendance was one of the highest in Crab Feed history. And the composition was over 90% UC Berkeley ASME student members, demonstrating the strong support and activity of ASME student members.

The Lipman Room was ready for show, exquisitely decorated with streamers, balloons, banners, aquatic scenes, and even live goldfish! Adding to the atmosphere was the sounds of the 10 piece David Urangas jazz and salsa combo. Andersen Consult-

College Corner

U.C. Berkeley



The end of the year is in sight. It is an exciting time! With elections the third week in April, we are beginning to reflect upon this past year and start planning next year. It's been a very productive and busy two semesters to reach our goals. Not only did we increase membership this past year, but more importantly we increased our active membership. For the latest information see our website at: <http://www.me.berkeley.edu/~asme/> or contact Erick Byrd, Chair, UC Berkeley Section, at asme@newton.berkeley.edu or by calling (510) 642-5549.

ing was a corporate sponsor of the Crab Feed and was available during the social hour to answer questions from student members.

Auren Hoffman delivered a very inspirational speech on entrepreneurship. He graduated UC Berkeley in 1996 with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, and is the co-founder and CEO of Bridgepath.com. He stressed "REAL" – Read everything, Enthusiasm, Act, and Listen. He brought personal, real word success stories of an engineer starting businesses, and encouraged lively discussions of related topics.

Brandon Muramatsu presented the 1999 Farbar Award to two UC Berkeley ASME members, Lawrence Cheung and Erick Byrd. He also presented two UC Berkeley Mechanical Engineering graduate students, Shih-Wei Liao and Dominique Roddier, with the 1998 ASME/Ocean Engineering Division's Best Student Project Award.

1999 National ASME Human Powered Vehicle Competition April 30 – May 2, 1999 • Treasure Island Hosted by the UC Berkeley Student Section



The San Francisco Section is fortunate to have this national event in our backyard. Join HPV teams from all across the country for this three day event on Treasure Island in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Support local teams from UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University in their quest to become HPV National Champion! Full race details are available from the UC Berkeley HPV website at: <http://www.me.berkeley.edu/~calhvp/asme99/>,

Every year, in the spirit of friendly competition and hands on education, ASME sponsors a Human Powered Vehicle (HPV) design competition at a selected University. Up to 40 schools from all over the nation enter their custom-designed vehicles in four different contests. These four competitive categories (design, sprint, road-race, and practical) span a three day period scheduled for a Friday through Sunday. Winners are designated in every category, while the highest overall finisher is crowned the HPV National Champion.

The ASME HPV event has been growing steadily larger for over 16 years. This fact is evidenced by the increase in entries from schools around the country. Just three years ago, only one or two teams ventured from their east coast homes to the western event venue. In 1998, though, teams from Washington to Florida showed up for the contest. The event's growth can also be seen in the fact that local and national media are beginning to cover it in greater numbers. Last year, there were up to three cameras at the event at any one time. The ASME competition is truly becoming a national spectacle.

Volunteers are needed to help with course monitoring, etc., during the event. For more information, contact Brenda Hyde via e-mail at bhyde@uclink4.berkeley.edu.



HPV Competition at Avenue D and California
(Map from maps.yahoo.com)



Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events in the Greater Bay Area

- April 30-May 2 Human Powered Vehicle Competition**
Treasure Island
- May 1-2 Regional Administrative Conference**
San Fernando Valley
- May 5 Sixth Annual Dinner Meeting with the San Francisco State University Student Section**
San Francisco State University Campus
- May 19 Tour of USS Posco**
Pittsburg, CA
- June SFASME Turn-Over Meeting**
Contact Brandon Muramatsu for more information.

USS-POSCO Tour

Where: USS-POSCO Industries
900 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg, CA

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

To get to USS POSCO, take Highway 4 East from Highway 242 or Highway 680. Exit Loveridge Road, turn left and proceed over the railroad tracks to the "Restricted Gate." Meet at 7:00 P.M. sharp!

The USS-POSCO steel finishing plant is a joint venture of USX (formerly U.S. Steel) and Pohang Iron and Steel Company in Korea. With a major renovation completed in April 1989, USS-POSCO is one of the most efficient steel finishing facilities in the world. Their product line includes cold rolled sheet, galvanized sheet and tin products. Currently, USS-POSCO ships more than 5,000 tons of steel per day to customers in 13 Western States, Canada, Mexico and the Pacific Rim. Posco employs 970 employees to produce 1.4 Million tons of steel per year. For further tour details contact Rich Myhre at rmyhre@bki.com or call (510) 444-8707 ext. 220.

RSVP by Friday, May 14 to
rsvp@sf.asme.org or (415) 721-4478
Include your name and number of attendees.

Chair's Greeting, Continued From Front Cover

Mansur Rastani, Ph.D., our candidate for Secretary, joins us from the Greensboro, North Carolina section. Mansur is currently an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Cal Maritime Academy. He served as ASME section Secretary in Greensboro, as well as Chair of the local Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). We hope that his participation will help strengthen our ties with Cal Maritime Academy.

Along with the ballot you'll find a solicitation for donations. Each of these funds serves a specific purpose. The Section Operations Fund goes to the support general section operations, think of this as 'local dues.' The last two items go to support students. The Student Fund helps defray the reduced student meal costs at our general meetings. The Farbar Fund helps replenish our Farbar scholarship funds — we annually award a scholarship to undergraduate students at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State and Cal Maritime Academy. Your generous support is sincerely appreciated. And remember that ASME is a non-profit organization so your donations may be tax-deductible, check with your tax advisor for details. Thanks to all those that made donations last year.

ASME International San Francisco Section

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S.F. Executive Committee for 1998-1999

Chair

Brandon Muramatsu U.C. Berkeley
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Vice-Chair, Programs Chair

Your Name Here! We're looking for a Vice-Chair and/or Programs Chair! Contact us!

Treasurer, Region IX Pre-College Education

Bill Nott, P.E. Lockheed-Martin
(408) 742-3632 nottw@asme.org

Secretary

Wesley Chang U.C. Berkeley
wchang@newton.berkeley.edu

Honors & Awards, Region IX Trainer

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Government Relations

Fay Brown



The Bay Connection can be found of the Internet!! Use your favorite web browser to access <http://sf.asme.org/>

Winner of the ASME Region IX
Outstanding Newsletter Award!

San Francisco Section Newsletter

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